

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Sylvia Corcoran. I am a proud member of the social work profession.

I write to respectfully request that you consider the following concerns as they pertain to Medicaid Reform and The Affordable Care Act.

I would like to strongly recommend you **MANDATE** rather than simply "authorized" Public Act 95-518 reimbursement to Licensed Clinical Social Workers for Medicaid eligible services in ALL settings. This is especially important to me as a practitioner in private practice. I recently became an approved Medicare Provider via an organization for which I am an Independent Contractor. However, I am unable to be reimbursed for services as a social worker in private practice.

**Another aspect of the 1115 Waiver, specifically Loan Repayment (section 4B) is, of great importance to me. I am still repaying debt from my pursuit of my Masters degree in Social Work that I obtained over 12 years ago. Although there have been times over the years when I have had the need to request a temporary hardship forbearance, I have been repaying my loans each and every month for years. The weight of the loans has the disheartening effect of dampening my hope for home ownership. If social workers were to be included as an approved group/profession in the loan repayment section, this would serve to have more social workers to work in impoverished areas and with populations that need the services the most and where the need is great.**

**A final point I'd like to make for your consideration is that a reform of Medicaid cannot nor should not take place without social workers at the table. Social Workers have a legacy for supporting those in need to improve their lives. Research demonstrates that there are great disparities in healthcare among various ethnicities. Social workers play an integral role in examining the origins and root causes of poor health. Social workers possess a lens in which individuals are not viewed in isolation but as individuals that are impacted by the various systems that impinge upon their lives. Social workers are especially equipped to support individuals and families to prioritize needs and successfully navigate systems in order to secure what is needed to enhance their health at all levels; physical, emotional, mental, spiritual and financial.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Corcoran, LCSW, CADC, MCEd.